



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/748,890	12/27/2000	Terri A. Carroll	F-111	5704

919 7590 10/08/2003

PITNEY BOWES INC.
35 WATERVIEW DRIVE
P.O. BOX 3000
MSC 26-22
SHELTON, CT 06484-8000

EXAMINER

SHERR, CRISTINA O

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3621

DATE MAILED: 10/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/748,890

Applicant(s)

CARROLL ET AL.

Examiner

Cristina O Sherr

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address -
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-16 have been examined in this Application.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 21 July 2003 was filed after the mailing date of the Application on 27 December 2000. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

Specification

3. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kara et al (US 6,249,777B1).
6. Regarding claim 1 –

Art Unit: 3621

Kara discloses a method for meter cost accounting using a web browser-based shipping system comprising the steps of (a) operatively connecting a meter to a client for enabling said meter to perform a transaction; (b) running a web browser program on said client for communicating with a web server; (c) running a meter application on said web server; (d) identifying a user account; (e) performing said transaction; and (f) updating a cost accounting table located on the web server with said transaction information relative to said user account (Col. 6 ln 12-29).

7. Regarding claim 2 –

Kara discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising the step of transferring transaction information to a customer accounting system. (Col 11 ln 62 – col 12 ln 5).

8. Regarding claim 3 –

Kara discloses the method of claim 2, wherein said transfer is completed through extended markup language (col 12 ln 6-14).

9. Regarding claim 4 –

Kara discloses the method of claim 2, wherein said transfer is completed through scraping (Col 12 ln 10-14).

10. Regarding claim 5 –

Kara discloses the method of claim 1, wherein said cost accounting table further comprises a meter table and an account table (col 11 ln 42-54).

11. Claims 6-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kara et al (US 6,249,777B1).

12. Regarding claim 6 –

Art Unit: 3621

Kara discloses a method for postage meter cost accounting using a web browser based shipping system comprising the steps of (a) operatively connecting a postage meter to a client; (b) running a web browser program on said client for communicating with a web server; (c) running a postage meter application on said web server; (d) running a postage meter automation server on said client; (e) communicating between said automation server and said web server using a script call; (f) identifying a user account; (g) performing a transaction; and (h) updating a cost accounting table with information relative to said transaction (Col 13 ln 10-29).

13. Regarding claim 7 –

Kara discloses the method of claim 6, wherein said script call is JAVASCRIPT™ (col 17 ln 31-37).

14. Regarding claim 8 –

Kara discloses the method of claim 6, further comprising the step of transferring transaction information to a customer accounting system (Col 15 ln 25-44).

15. Regarding claim 9 –

Kara discloses the method of claim 6 wherein said transfer is completed through extended mark up language (col 17 ln 31-37).

16. Regarding claim 10 –

Kara discloses the method of claim 6 wherein said transfer is completed by scraping (Col 12 ln 10-14).

17. Regarding claim 11 –

Art Unit: 3621

Kara discloses the method of claim 5, wherein said cost accounting table further comprises a meter table and an account table (col 11 ln 42-54).

18. Claims 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kara et al (US 6,249,777B1).

19. Regarding claim 12 –

Kara discloses a system for postage meter cost accounting using a web browser based postal mail shipping system comprising (a) a postage meter operatively connected to a client for performing a meter transaction; (b) a web browser program running on said client for communicating with a web server; and (c) a postage meter application running on said web server, said postage meter application updating a cost accounting table with said information relative to said postage meter transaction; (d) identifying a user account; (e) performing said transaction; and (f) updating said cost accounting table with said transaction information (Col 13 ln 10-29).

20. Regarding claim 13 –

Kara discloses the system of claim 12 further including a means for transferring information to a customer cost accounting system (Col 15 ln 25-44).

21. Regarding claim 14 –

Kara discloses the system of claim 13 wherein said transfer is completed through extended mark up language (col 12 ln 6-14).

22. Regarding claim 15 –

Kara discloses the system of claim 13 wherein said transfer is completed by scraping (Col 12 ln 10-14).

Art Unit: 3621

23. Regarding claim 16 –

Kara discloses the system of claim 12, wherein said cost accounting table further comprises a meter table and an account table (col 11 ln 42-54).

24. Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may be applied as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

25. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

26. DeFilippo et al (US 6,044,364A discloses a method and apparatus for ensuring for the correct accounting of postage dispensed by a postage meter.

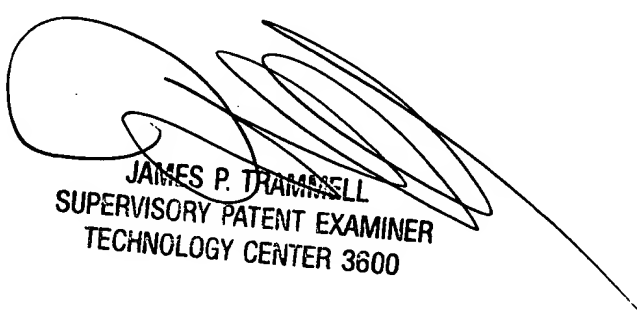
27. Racanelli (US 4,511,793) discloses a mail metering process and machine.

28. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cristina O Sherr whose telephone number is 703-305-0625. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 to 5:00.

Art Unit: 3621

29. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

30. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



JAMES P. TRAMMELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600